

Serial No. 10/578,743
Atty. Docket No. P71140US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A dialyzer in combination with a connecting device comprising:

a dialyzer having a dialysate port; and

a connector (1) for connecting a configured to connect said dialysate port (31) of said dialyzer a hemodialysis machine (32) having to a dialysate-carrying line, said connector having with a first lumen and a second lumen (8, 16) passing through the connector (1) therethrough, a first end (4) of the connector (1) surrounding the first lumen and configured to accommodate (8), suitable for accommodating the dialysate port (31) in the first lumen (8), a second end (5) of the connector (1) surrounding the second lumen (16) and suitable and configured for being connected to the dialysate-carrying line, characterized in that said connector first end having a recess (6, 6') with a shift element (3) accommodated in the recess is provided on the first end (4), whereby such that the shift element (3) is displaceable between a first position and a second position perpendicular to the direction of the first lumen (8) in the connector first end (4), whereby said shift element in the first position the shift element (3) does not

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~~penetrate~~ penetrating through the first lumen ~~(8)~~ of the connector first end ~~(4)~~, and, in the second position, said shift element narrowing ~~it narrows~~ the first lumen ~~(8)~~ of the ~~first end (4)~~ so that the connector ~~(1)~~ with the shift element ~~(3)~~ is placed on the dialysate port ~~(31)~~ in the first position and in the second position the connector ~~it~~ can be locked on the dialysate port ~~(31)~~ by means of an undercut ~~(30)~~ thereon on said port.

2. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the connector ~~(1)~~ ~~consists~~ includes not only of the shift element ~~(3)~~ but also a base body ~~(2)~~, which is composed of two interconnected essentially cylindrical sleeves, ~~(4, 5)~~ ~~whereby~~ the first sleeve ~~is~~ being the first end and the second sleeve ~~is~~ being the second end.

3. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ an outside diameter of the first sleeve ~~(4)~~ is greater than ~~the~~ an outside diameter of the second sleeve ~~(5)~~.

4. (Canceled).

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5. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the first lumen (8) in the first sleeve (4) has a larger diameter than the second lumen (16) in the second sleeve (5).

6. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the connector (1) is provided with a stop (7) for the ~~dialysis machine~~ dialyzer port (31) in the connecting area of the two sleeves (4, 5).

7. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 6, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ a sealing element (20) for sealing the connector (1) with respect to the ~~dialysis machine~~ dialyzer port (31) is provided on the inside wall of the first sleeve (4) near the stop (7).

8. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ a constriction area (17) in at least one of the ~~lumen (8, 16)~~ lumens is provided between the first end (4) and the second end (5).

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9. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the recess consists of two opposite recesses ~~(6, 6')~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the shift element ~~(3)~~ has a first opening ~~(9)~~ which does not constrict the first lumen ~~(8)~~ in the first end ~~(4)~~ in the first position and has a second opening ~~(10)~~ which is connected to the first opening in the direction of shifting and which constricts the first lumen ~~(8)~~ in the first end ~~(4)~~ in the direction of the recesses ~~(6, 6')~~ in the second position.

11. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first opening ~~(9)~~ has a round shape and the second opening ~~(10)~~ has an elongated shape so that the overall shape is that of a keyhole.

12. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first opening ~~(10)~~ has catch projections ~~(12, 12')~~, which can engage with complementary recesses

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~~(13, 13')~~ on the first end ~~(4)~~ of the connector ~~(1)~~ for ~~the purpose~~
of engaging the shift element ~~(3)~~ in the first position.

13. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 12,
wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the complementary recesses ~~(13, 13')~~
are additionally provided symmetrically on the first end ~~(4)~~ of the
connector ~~(1)~~ on the opposite side of the first lumen ~~(8)~~ in the
direction of shifting.

14. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 11,
wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the second opening ~~(10)~~ is provided
with an expanded opening area ~~(14, 14')~~ perpendicular to the
direction of shifting for accommodating the ~~dialysis machine~~
dialyzer port ~~(31)~~ for engagement of the shift element ~~(3)~~ in the
second position.

15. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 11,
wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the elongated border of the second
opening ~~(10)~~ has a wall thickness that tapers with a slope toward
the opening and has a form-fitting engagement with a corresponding

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slope ~~(33)~~ on the undercut ~~(30)~~ of the ~~dialysis machine~~ dialyzer port ~~(31)~~.

16. (New) A dialyzer in combination with a connecting device comprising:

a dialyzer having a dialysate port configured to be coupled to a Hansen coupling; and

a connector configured to connect said dialysate port of said dialyzer to a dialysate-carrying line, said connector having a first lumen and a second lumen passing therethrough, a first end of the connector surrounding the first lumen and configured to accommodate the dialysate port in the first lumen, a second end of the connector surrounding the second lumen and configured for being connected to the dialysate-carrying line, said connector first end having a recess with a shift element accommodated in the recess such that the shift element is displaceable between a first position and a second position perpendicular to the direction of the first lumen in the connector first end, said shift element in the first position not penetrating through the first lumen of the connector first end and, in the second position, said shift element narrowing the first lumen so that the connector with the shift

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element is placed on the dialysate port in the first position and in the second position the connector can be locked on the dialysate port by means of an undercut on said port, said dialysate port when receiving said connector remaining in said same configuration in which said port is coupled to a Hansen coupling.

17. (New) The combination according to claim 16, wherein the connector includes not only the shift element but also a base body which is composed of two interconnected essentially cylindrical sleeves, the first sleeve being the first end and the second sleeve being the second end, an outside diameter of the first sleeve is greater than an outside diameter of the second sleeve.

18. (New) The combination according to claim 16, wherein the recess includes two opposite recesses and the shift element has a first opening which does not constrict the first lumen in the first end in the first position and has a second opening which is connected to the first opening in the direction of shifting and which constricts the first lumen in the first end in the direction of the recesses in the second position.

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19. (New) The combination according to claim 18, wherein the first opening has a round shape and the second opening has an elongated shape so that the overall shape is that of a keyhole, said first opening having catch projections which can engage with complementary recesses on the first end of the connector for engaging the shift element in the first position.

20. (New) The combination according to claim 19, wherein the second opening is provided with an expanded opening area perpendicular to the direction of shifting for accommodating the dialyzer port for engagement of the shift element in the second position.

21. (New) The combination according to claim 19, wherein the elongated border of the second opening has a wall thickness that tapers with a slope toward said opening and has a form-fitting engagement with a corresponding slope on the undercut of the dialyzer port.